

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: INDIANA	
COUNTY: ADAMS	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Limberlost State Memorial

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"Limberlost Cabin"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 E. 6th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Geneva

STATE:
Indiana

CODE: **18** COUNTY: **Adams** CODE: **001**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Indiana, Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of Museums & Memorials

STREET AND NUMBER:
202 N. Alabama Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Adams County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Decatur

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
1180

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Indiana Historic Preservation Survey & Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 North Senate, State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE:
Indiana

CODE:
18

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

size accross front sto- Sen. style arch corner from roof.

Limberlost Cabin, completed in 1895, is a 14 room (including entrance hall and attic), two-story, log structure facing north on East 6th Street in Geneva, Indiana. The exterior of the house is built of Wisconsin white cedar logs, stained in their natural color. The logs were mitered at the corners and chinked with cement. The upper story and roof is surfaced with redwood shingles stained the same color as the logs. The north and the north half of the east walls of the house are fronted with a one-story, L-shaped porch with a vertical, solid-log railing and log pillars. At the southeast corner of the home is a gazebo-like porch with a verticle, solid log railing and one story log pillars. The house has a modified mansard roof.

The front entrance of the home is located at the west end of the north wall and is reached by crossing the L-shaped porch. The front door opens into a narrow entrance hall paneled in quarter-sawed oak. To the west of the entrance hall is the stairway leading to the second floor. The dining room is at the south end of the entrance hall, and the library is to the east of the entrance hall.

The library 20'x14' has a large window in the north wall and three small windows in the east wall. There is a fireplace in the south wall with doors on either side. Above the fireplace, along the entire west wall, and between all windows on the north and east walls are built-in bookcases of oak. The room is paneled in quarter-sawed oak. The door to the west of the library leads to the dining room. The door to the east of the fireplace leads to the music room.

The dining room 21'x14' has wainscoting of quarter-sawed oak and plaster moldings of a native plant called "Solomon's Seal" on the ceiling. There is a fireplace with a three-cornered cupboard of oak above it in the northeast corner of the room. There are also built-in oak cabinets along the south wall and in the northwest corner of the dining room. The conservatory 6'x10', whose principal feature is a large bay window, can be reached by double French doors at the west end of the dining room. A doorway in the south wall of the dining room leads to a back hallway, and a doorway in the east wall leads to the music room.

A music room 20'x18' has plasterwainscoting and ornate plaster moldings of musical instruments along the top of the walls and on the ceiling. There is a fireplace in the northwest corner; a doorway to the library in the north wall; a large window in the east wall; and two doorways in the south wall.

There are sliding oak doors between the entrance hall, library, dining room, and music room.

The doorway at the east end of the music room's south wall leads to a bedroom 14'x10'. This room has a fireplace in the southwest corner; a window in the east wall; and a window and door to the outside in the south wall. The outside door leads to the gazebo-like porch.

The doorway at the east end of the music room's south wall leads to another bedroom 13' x 11'. This room has a fireplace in the southwest corner; two windows in the south wall; and a door leading to the back hall in the west wall.

The back hallway leads to the back stairway; a kitchen 13' x 12' in the southwest corner of the house; and a bathroom 10' x 7' to the east of the kitchen. The bathroom and kitchen both have built-in oak cabinets and oak wainscoting.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

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(Continuation Sheet)

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DESCRIPTION - Continued

The front stairway of the Limberlost Cabin is made of solid oak, and the stairwell is paneled in quarter-sawn oak. At the top of the stairway is a small hallway running north and south. The east wall of the hallway has a small alcove with a plaster molded female figure in the wall.

There are four bedrooms upstairs. The southwest 21' x 16' and northeast 13' x 11' bedrooms have fireplaces. The southeast and northwest bedrooms have dimensions of 16' x 11' and 13' x 11' respectively.

The back stairway leads to a small hall at the south corner of the house. This hall is a door to the attic and a door to the southeastern bedroom. All six bedrooms in the house have plaster walls and oak woodwork. All the floors in the house are oak. The house was originally lighted by gas and heated by gas burners in the fireplaces.

Mrs. Porter, the designer and original occupant of the home, moved Limberlost Cabin in 1914. In the years following Mrs. Porter's departure several minor alterations were made to the house. Most of the original gas lighting fixtures remain, although they have been converted to electricity. Central heating was added and running water was installed in the kitchen and bathroom. None of the original plumbing fixtures remain in the kitchen, but the bathroom still has the original bathtub and marble sink. The important features of the house remain as designed by Mrs. Porter.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1895 to 1914

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Social/Humanitarian☒ Art

Architecture

☐ Theater☐ Commerce☒ Literature☐ Transportation☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Conservation☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gene Stratton Porter was Indiana's most widely-read woman author. She wrote twelve novels, seven nature books, a book for children, two books of poetry, one book of essays, and numerous magazine articles for OUTING, Century, Ladies Home Journal, McCalls, and Good Housekeeping. Mrs. Porter is estimated to have had fifty million readers, and her works were translated into seven foreign languages and braille. Three of her novels, Girl of the Limberlost, Michael O'Halloran, and The Harvester were made into motion pictures and were great box-office successes. Mrs. Porter was also a noted naturalist, photographer, and illustrator.

In 1895 Mrs. Porter, then 32 years old, her husband, Charles, and her daughter, Jeannette, moved into their new home which they called "Limberlost Cabin" after the great Limberlost Swamp which stretched for many miles just south of their home. Local residents had named this area "Limberlost" after an early surveyor of the area, "Limber Jim" Corbus, who reputedly was lost in the quicksand of the swamp.

Limberlost Cabin was a fourteen-room log structure designed by Mrs. Porter to be elegant while still blending with its magnificent natural surroundings. Very few log homes were built during this period which could match the Limberlost Cabin for either size or elegance. It is certainly both one of the largest and most elegant log homes of this period still remaining in Indiana.

Living as they did on the fringe of the Limberlost swamp, Gene Porter soon found herself fascinated with the wide variety of unusual flora and fauna of the area, and she became a serious student of the local wildlife and wildflowers. In the course of her studies she became proficient in producing extremely accurate watercolor illustrations of plants, animals, and insects. She also became interested in photography as a means of depicting the natural state in its true form. She soon mastered photography so completely that the manufacturer of the photographic print paper used by Mrs. Porter sent a representative to ascertain how she was able to get such exceptional results with their brand of paper.

During her first several years at Limberlost Mrs. Porter wrote, photographed, and illustrated several magazine articles on nature studies. In 1903 her first book, Song of the Cardinal was published. This was a fictional work, but was interwoven with fact and contained many of her nature photographs and water-color illustrations.

From 1903 to 1913 Mrs. Porter published five more novels: Freckles 1904, At the Foot of the Rainbow 1907, A Girl of the Limberlost 1909, The Harvester 1911, and Laddie 1913. While living at Limberlost she also

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SIGNIFICANCE - Continued

published five books of Nature Studies: What I Have Done With Birds 1907, Birds of the Bible 1909, Music of the Wild 1910, and Moths of the Limberlost 1912.

Virtually all of the fiction written by Mrs. Porter was interwoven with facts about nature, and many of the characters depicted in her novels were actually composites of several of her real life acquaintances. Since Mrs. Porter wrote of the lives and locales that were familiar to her, visitors to her Limberlost home can still see many of the places described in her novels. These include the "Dream Girl's Porch", "Freckles Window", "The Harvester's Fireplace", and "Dream Girl's Room".

By 1913 the magnificent Limberlost Swamp had been drained and Gene Stratton Porter sought another site for her home and work. In 1914 Mrs. Porter, now a world-famous author, moved from Limberlost to her new home on Sylvan Lake near Rome City, Indiana. Here she wrote 3 novels, one book of nature studies, and a children's book. In 1920 she left Indiana permanently and moved to California for reasons of health. She continued to write in California until her death in 1924.

Limberlost Cabin was presented to the State of Indiana in 1947 by the Limberlost Conservation Association of Geneva. It has been maintained by the state as "Limberlost State Memorial" since 1947.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gene Stratton Porter, Author and Naturalist, - Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks (1969)
 "State Memorials Honor Gene Stratton Porter" by Joan Schaub - Outdoor Indiana Vol. NV, No. 3; June, 1947 pp. 6 & 7.
 Unpublished research material in the files of the Division of Museums and Memorials

De Pauw

Schumacher - book of list in IV 6

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0	'	"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **13.61 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas Gross, Memorials Field Officer	
ORGANIZATION Division of Museums & Memorials	DATE
STREET AND NUMBER: 202 North Alabama Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE Indiana
	CODE 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: _____</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS